



KOREA TODAY

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In January 2016: Service personnel and Pyongyang citizens have a joint rally in celebration of the brilliant success in the first hydrogen bomb test of Juche Korea, and students, youth and other working people have a celebratory dancing evening.



DPRK-USA Nuclear Confrontation Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

THE SUCCESS IN THE first hydrogen bomb test of Korea on January 6 this year filled the whole nation with an ecstasy of delight.

The people's delight did not come simply from their pride in their nation's attainment of a position in the vanguard of the nuclear nations: it just emanated from the belief and confidence in the capability of guaranteeing their national sovereignty and right to existence and peace in the Korean peninsula and security in the region against the nuclear threat of the US.

No nation on earth has been exposed to the American nuclear threat and blackmail so directly and so long as the Koreans.

Having suffered from the atom-bomb menace of the US in the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953), the Koreans have since been under constant nuclear-employed intimidation from the US as it has massively shipped all sorts of nuclear weapons into south Korea and conducted nuclear war rehearsals against the DPRK year after year.

The US imperialists began to introduce and deploy tactical nukes in south Korea in 1957; the number of nuclear weapons rose to more than 1 000 in the 1970s and as many as 1 720 in the 1990s, thus reducing the southern half of the Korean peninsula to the world's largest nuclear arsenal.

Meanwhile Pentagon has since 1969 conducted joint nuclear exercises in south Korea and its vicinity under codenames like Focus Retina, Freedom Bolt, Team Spirit, RSOI, Key Resolve,

Foal Eagle and Ulji Freedom Guardian. These moves involved a huge amount of nuclear weapons deployed in south Korea and latest means of nuclear strike of the US. Needless to say, they posed a grave military threat to the DPRK and drove the situation in the Korean peninsula and the region from bad to worse.

In an effort to put off the American nuclear threat and make the peninsula nuclear-free the DPRK made a number of proposals and overtures, typically the proposal made in 1959 for laying an atomic weapon-free peace zone in Asia, and the one in 1986 for turning the peninsula into a nuclear-free zone. Nevertheless, the Americans ratcheted up its nuclear threat.

For an alternative choice the DPRK signed the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty in December 1985 in an attempt to have the American nukes withdrawn from south Korea and clear the nuclear threat from the US. The choice, however, was offset as the US instigated some insidious elements of the International Atomic Energy Agency to adopt a resolution on ad hoc inspection of sensitive military installations of the DPRK as well as nuclear facilities. Worse still, Pentagon resumed the Team Spirit joint military drill with the south Korean forces. All this meant an open policy of nuclear intimidation.

With the beginning of the current century the nuclear menace of the US against the DPRK went to extremes. The Bush administration unilaterally disrupted the DPRK-USA Agreed Frame-

work adopted in October 1994 during the period of the Clinton administration in order to settle the nuclear problem in the Korean peninsula. To make matters worse, they made it a fait accompli in a report on nuclear posture examination in January 2002 to launch a nuclear preemptive attack against the DPRK. As a result the DPRK was exposed to a critical danger; it was a target of nuclear preemptive attack which might be decided by the Americans at any moment.

In the prevailing situation the DPRK could not but quit the NPT completely in January 2003. Then, it made its first nuclear test in October 2006, which was followed by similar tests in 2009 and 2013 respectively. This brought an end to the situation of nuclear imbalance in the northeast Asian region where the DPRK alone remained non-nuclear. Now the DPRK-USA confrontation switched from the one between a non-nuclear state and a nuclear state into the one between nuclear nations.

The attainment of nuclear weapons was the ultimate choice taken by the DPRK to safeguard its national sovereignty and interest from the American nuclear attack since the mode of dialogue and negotiation was no longer effective and the relevant international law turned out to be short of expectation; it was a just measure to neutralize the hard-line and arbitrary policy of the US, the nuke-wielding culprit of the instability in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity.

For all the truth, the US per-

► sistently argued for renunciation of the nuclear weapons on the part of the DPRK, while gearing up its nuclear threat through an intensified hostile policy against the DPRK. Washington's aim was, and is, to take odds in confrontation with the DPRK by means of its nuclear weapons so as to destroy the socialist system of the DPRK and take an unrivalled sway in the peninsula finally. For that purpose the Obama administration rejected all the reasonable proposals the DPRK made to remove the war danger, ease the tension and create a peaceful environment in the peninsula. (A typical proposal was to stop joint military exercises in south Korea and change the armistice agreement into a peace treaty.) At the annual security conference with the south Korean authorities in 2009 the Americans made an official document making it clear that they would offer an extended deterrent to south Korea. This provides them with a freedom to ship into south Korea whatever nuclear weapons they want.

Obama is still hanging on to the so-called "strategic patience" policy although it is denounced as failure even by the American conservative hard-liners and experts. By the policy he is "patiently" waiting for change in the DPRK's action, that is, "giving up nuclear weapons first," while putting pressure and sanctions and rejecting dialogue. Means of nuclear strike of all kinds have been hurled into the Korean peninsula and its vicinity, turning it into the world's hottest spot and tinderbox of nuclear war.

The ever vicious policy of "strategic patience" and reckless provocations for nuclear war left the DPRK no other choice but to

attain H-bombs. In the final analysis, the daily growing hostility of the US has driven the DPRK to the status of nuclear nation equipped with even H-bombs.

Referring to this fact, Andrei Vinogradov, chief of the political study and estimation centre of the Far East Institute of the Academy of Sciences, Russia, said in his interview with the newspaper *Parliamentskaya Gazeta* that the DPRK, in a tough economic situation due to the US-led hostile forces, could not but take a resolute measure to safeguard the national security, and that the acquisition of H-bombs by the DPRK is an inevitable outcome of the anti-DPRK policy pursued by the US, Japan and south Korea.

The DPRK's retaining of H-bombs is a self-defensive choice made to survive the prevailing grave situation when genuine peace and security do not come from any humiliating request or at negotiating table and when you should rely on your own capability to defend yourself. It is also a manifestation of the truth that neither the political and military oppression nor economic sanctions applied by the US and other hostile forces can check the dynamic advance of the Korean people along the line of independence, Songun and socialism.

The possession of H-bombs shows the DPRK's nuclear arms have reached a higher stage of their development. They serve as a sure guarantee for peace in the Korean peninsula and security in the region as they stand formidable against the reckless American attempt for nuclear war.

Today the DPRK's nuclear force is developing by leaps and bounds to counter the provocative moves for nuclear war. Undoubtedly this is a cause of grave threat

to the US.

Apprehensive voices are heard even among the American experts of Korean studies. A former high-ranking official at the Clinton administration's Department of Defense asserted in his contribution to *Washington Post* that refusing to consider the nuclear threat from north Korea would lead to an awful mistake, that north Korea had made progress in development of long-range missile, missile-launching unit and small-sized nuclear warhead while increasing the amount of nuclear materials in its possession, that the country had handled sanctions successfully, and that it was high time for the US to set out boldly to end the hostile relations with north Korea.

In his contribution to *Forbes* a researcher at the Cato Institute pointed out: The Obama administration is advised to propose to have talks for peace agreement and normalization of relations. While Obama is refusing to have dialogue with north Korea, the latter is rapidly pushing ahead with its nuclear and missile development. Even the neo-cons of the US are lukewarm about war with north Korea as it might entail terrible consequences. Washington sees intensified sanctions as omnipotent remedy, but there's no sign about north Korea giving up. Washington is strongly advised to immediately accept Pyongyang's proposal and begin negotiation for peace agreement.

Considering the DPRK's dynamic progress despite the Americans' tenacious political and military pressure and economic sanctions, it is not so difficult to learn that it will continue to build up its capability to confront the US with a greater threat. □



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Front Cover: The Pyongyang Locomotive Corps workers are delighted to hear the news of complete success in the first hydrogen bomb test

Photo by Ri Jin Myong



Back Cover: The Hyangsan Stream in early spring

Photo by Ra Jin Hyok

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Green Forests Tell

FROM OF OLD, KOREA WAS CALLED THE land of golden tapestry for its thickly-wooded mountains and beautiful flowers. The conservation of forests, an asset of the country for posterity, is a consistent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Into golden mountains and treasure mountains

When Korea was liberated from the Japanese military occupation in August 1945, the country's forests were in a miserable state. All the mountains and fields were devastated by the Japanese imperialists' colonial predatory policy.

Busy as he was leading efforts to build a new country after the country's liberation, President Kim Il Sung climbed Moran Hill on March 2, 1946. Seeing the hill damaged by the Japanese colonial rule, he unfolded a far-reaching plan of making all mountains thickly wooded by planting a lot of trees.

Later, he advanced the slogan which suggests the need to make good use of mountains in mountainous areas and sea in coastal areas, and aroused the en-

tire nation to implement it.

In April 1961 an enlarged meeting of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the WPK was held under the guidance of the President in Ryongjon-ri, Pukchong County, South Hamgyong Province. Earlier, he had visited the county several times when he had given instructions on building more than 1 000 hectares of terraced orchards in deep valleys. He called the enlarged meeting to generalize practical experience gained in making and managing orchards. At the meeting Kim Il Sung called for expanding orchards through a mass campaign, stressing the need to invariably implement the Party's policy of making effective use of mountains for greater development of fruit culture. Defining the wholesale increase in the number of orchards as a grand nature-remaking project and a great revolutionary task to improve the people's living standards, he specified various matters related to forming orchards.

The Pukchong enlarged meeting was a historical meeting which showed the way to increasing assets for the country's prosperity and the people's happy life and laying huge foundations for posterity. ►

The Ryongjon Fruit Farm has made a change.





This tree on Moran Hill was planted by Chairman Kim Jong Il in March 1958.

and a beautiful land of the WPK's age by further conserving and building it, and illuminated principled problems concerning forest formation and management.

Whenever he saw bare mountains on his continuous trips of the Songun revolutionary leadership, the Chairman would say: We should turn misfortune into a blessing by planting good species of trees in large number in the naked mountains and hand the beautiful land with thickly-wooded mountains down to posterity. On his inspections to the Korean People's Army units, factories, farms and villages, he first acquainted himself with their afforestation, spoke highly of the soldiers and working people who took an active part in tree-planting and inspired them to remain in the lead of afforestation. He gave instructions on putting sapling production on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis during his field guidance trips to central and local tree nurseries.

In 2004 the Chairman inspected a frontline unit of the KPA and joined its service personnel in planting trees. On that occasion he said that forests should be cultivated under a long-term programme by waging a mass movement of tree-planting and protected in a scrupulous way. Thus, the country's afforestation drive was vigorously pushed ahead under his guidance, and the appearance of the country changed day by day.

Forest restoration campaign

Turning all mountains of the country into thickly-wooded golden and treasure ones within the coming



- After the meeting a vigorous nationwide struggle was waged to turn all the mountains into the golden and treasure ones.

Afforestation

Chairman Kim Jong Il formulated a great plan of afforesting the country true to the President's noble intention and worked heart and soul for its implementation to the last moment of his life.

In the latter half of the 1990s Korea had to experience the Arduous March and the forced march because of the economic blockade and other manoeuvres of imperialists and consecutive natural calamities. At the time the forest resources of the country were severely damaged.

In several works including *Let Us Build Our Country Into a Beautiful Land of the Age of the Workers' Party Through Effective Forest and Water Conservation* and on other occasions, the Chairman said that it's the WPK's plan and determination to turn the land where the Korean nation have lived generation after generation into a socialist paradise

► ten years true to the instructions of the great President and Chairman—this is the unshakable determination and will of the supreme leader Kim Jong Un.

In his classic work *Let the Entire Party, the Whole Army and All the People Conduct a Vigorous Forest Restoration Campaign to Cover the Mountains of the Country with Green Woods* he made public in February last year, he clarified detailed ways and tasks to push forward the forest restoration campaign to the end, regarding it

as a war to ameliorate the nature. In the work he said that patriotism is a noble spirit of valuing even a single tree of the country and devoting his sincere efforts to raising it and that the sense of patriotism would be cultivated in the course of planting even a tree by himself and cultivating it with utmost care, calling upon all the people to rise as one for such a noble patriotic project.

His appeal gave rise to a nationwide campaign to cover the mountains of the country with green woods. In the DPRK forest restoration comes as an important task for the Party, the state and the army, and all possible means and ways are mobilized.

A sweeping revolution for forest restoration takes place across the country. The Central Tree Nursery and other nurseries mass-produce good species of



Patriotic minds are dedicated to tree planting.

various young trees, and all people turn out in the campaign to plant and cultivate trees in a scientific and technological way. Forests of economic value, reserved forests and scenic forests are managed in a reasonable way, and methods of creating mixed forests and combining the forestry and agriculture are actively introduced. Deep attention is paid to the conservation of forests and relevant measures are taken to introduce and widely spread the advanced science and technology to create and conserve forests.

The Korean people are convinced that when they rise as one in the forest restoration project in hearty response to the WPK's call, they can carry out the Chairman's lifetime instructions on living for tomorrow, not merely for today.

An Chol Ho

The Central Tree Nursery mass-produces saplings of trees of fine species.



Afforestation on Scientific Basis

IN RECENT YEARS ALL THE Korean people are buckling down to the work of afforesting and landscaping the whole country to further improve their mountains and streams. To turn all the mountains into treasure mountains or golden mountains with thick forests in ten years—this is a firm determination and will of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK).

True to the WPK's policy, the researchers at the Academy of Forestry charged with an important mission in increasing the forest resource which is the wealth of the country, are making determined efforts.

To put afforestation on a scientific, industrial and intensive basis, the institute set a high target and is conducting the work dynamically. Parent tree nurseries have been already built across the country from the capital city down to the lowest echelon to mass-produce saplings. For example, the Central Tree Nursery is playing a big role in the restoration of forest by producing tens of species of tree saplings in large quantities.

To keep the effort going smoothly all the members of the institute made further studies of

thinking and searching. Finally, they opened up a broad vista of making the substrate from abundant materials available in the country.

One of their successes is the manufacture of COTTEM of Korean style to increase the rate of rooting even in dry land.

Dr. Ro Pyong Du had already engrossed himself in such research work as improving the rate of rooting and the speed of growth which are knotty problems in afforestation. Whenever the officials of the institute told him to take it easy as he was of an advanced age with good records, he said that he could not follow the advice because the country was devastated in the indiscriminate bombing of the US imperialists in the Korean war (June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953), and that now the forests were being destroyed by the natural calamities. "I think afforestation is a kind of battle. It is my task to make the land my comrades defended at the cost of their lives thickly wooded even if it would cost my very life," said Ro, taking up another difficult task. Junior scientists were involved in his team.

They found it difficult to increase the rate of rooting between April and June for little rain and

easy evaporation which led to low moisture in the soil. Though it was a difficult struggle with nature, they at last made a COTTEM of Korean style. They also created methods to use humic acid potassium and multi-mineral liquid fertilizer which are capable of developing the growth of trees.

In addition, they are conducting the work of introducing the methods of direct planting and forestry & agriculture compound management, which contribute to afforestation.

The scientists at the Aeguk Tree Tissue Culture Institute are also intensifying the research into the tissue culture of the main tree species of high economic value and their acclimatization. Thus, they have laid a foundation for producing tree saplings by an industrial method for all seasons so as to successfully afforest and landscape the whole country in several years to come.

Another achievement of theirs is the foundation they laid to multiply the blueberry trees.

The scientists and technicians at the Academy of Forestry are now pushing ahead with their work to increase the wealth of the country with science and technology.

Kim Il Ryong



substrate, and thus contributed to increased production of saplings. One of their important targets was to make the material of substrate from ordinary things abundant in the country. Determined to solve all problems using domestic materials, they kept on

Deep research is made on the rooting of trees.



Patriotic Mind

MORAN HILL IS A HISTORICALLY renowned spot. The scenery viewed from Ulmil Pavilion in spring is wide open in all directions, and the rising full moon seen from Pubyok Pavilion in the evening is more than enjoyable. The two sights are predominant of all other natural beauties of the hill. For this reason, the celebration of spring at Ulmil Pavilion and the enjoyment of the full moon on Pubyok Pavilion belong to the eight scenic wonders of Pyongyang.

This marvellous beauty spot is under close care of the workers of the Moranbong Management Station under the Moranbong District Landscaping Company who are making devoted efforts to further develop it into a public recreation resort. In order to increase the area of forest and grass and develop the hill into an orchard, each workteam of the station has laid a tree nursery by themselves and grows a lot of seedlings of flowering plants and trees of all kinds.

At the beginning there cropped up many hitches, says Sin Myong Sik, head of the station, and tells a story.

The Kaesondae Workteam, who are mostly young people, laid a nursery and spread a lot of humus in the land. Then they planted various kinds of tree saplings and seedlings of flowering plants, but soon they found their job almost a failure. They were told that it was because they had had planted them without any consideration of the biological properties of the plants.

"We cannot develop Moran Hill into a better place with enthusiasm alone. We can do it only when we are well informed of science and technology," Sin decided, and, on the basis of consultation with officials of the company, made an arrangement for a technical course for one member or two of each workteam. He himself gave lectures on important matters of landscaping, and let veteran workers talk of their experience.

With the passage of time the workers got enthusiastic about their job. The Choesungdae Workteam, for instance, planted and tended saplings and seedlings to suit the biological qualities of each plant, thus laying a foundation to create a greater expanse of wood and grassland in the area under their charge. Acquiring a full amount of manure and applying it systematically brought about the growth of healthy saplings and seedlings in the nursery. These young trees and other plants were transplanted in a planned way, further improving the scenery of the hill. The combination of broad-leaved trees with needle-leaved ones, and the planting of different kinds of fruit trees have resulted in creation of another scenic wonder, offering greater pleasure to the visitors.

The station makes sure that each workteam and each worker keep a diary of observation of blights and diseases.

Years ago a long spell of drought led to the out-



break of diseases in the hill, causing loss of the flowering and other plants. When the flowers they had grown with all care through the spring and summer were turning yellow and two-year-old saplings were going dry, the workers felt agonized. But the area looked after by a young girl of the Kaesondae Workteam was free from the damage from the blights. It was because she had kept a good diary of observation. When the girl told that she had put down in it what she had found out and sought help from old hands or solicited assistance from the Academy of Forestry, all the workers were awakened.

Since then all of them were quite interested in the writing of the diary and conducted observation of blights season after season in connection with the Horticultural Institute.

In October last year Pyongyang held different colourful functions in celebration of the 70th founding anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, when a huge number of people came up to the hill to enjoy themselves. In the swinging ground women were enthusiastic about singing, and in the wrestling ground a fierce competition was going to everybody's excitement, when all the workers of the station were on the job.

Pae Phil Sun, a resident in Central District, was out on the hill together with her grandchildren, when she said, "The beauty of Moran Hill has not come of its own accord. As we have those people who are busy tending the scenic beauty, we have this Moran Hill at present and the hill will become more attractive tomorrow."

Rim Hye Gyong

Equal Right Vested in Women

IN THE YEARS OF THE Japanese military rule (1905–1945) few Korean women were aware of the International Women's Day (March 8) and, worse still, many of them were ignorant of even their names and birthdays. The fact says that their social position was deplorable. Only after liberation (August 15, 1945) the Korean women acquired a true right to human life.

President Kim Il Sung made sure the Democratic Women's Union of Korea was founded soon after the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea in the liberated country. And he named the first women's magazine of the new country *Korean Women* and sent a congratulatory message.

The Korean women, who had been denied even an access to a neighbour, rose up to build a new society. The fact that the newspapers of Korea carried more than 100 articles a year about the efforts of the women in the building of a new country shows that how the Korean women rushed out of the shade of history to get completely new looks. In March the following year, they celebrated the International Women's Day with pride for the first time 36 years after the day was formally instituted. And months later the Law on Sex Equality was promulgated on July 30, which brought about a historic turn in the destiny of the Korean women. Kim Il Sung clarified the position and role of the Korean women, accounting for half of the population, by coining the famous phrase *one of the two wheels of the revolution*. He was the peerless national leader who saved the

Korean women from the plight of wretched life and provided them with dignity and happiness.

Here goes a story about a hunter couple in Phyonggang County, Kangwon Province, who eked out their scanty living as miserable servants of a landlord before liberation. One day after

1953) and fought valiantly against the aggressors.

At the President's proposal the issue of relieving the women of their heavy burden of household chores was put on the agenda at a congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. He personally met the women, who were dispirited for



Merited Road Maintenance Worker Kim Song Nyo (centre) and her family members, workers at the Songgan County Road Maintenance Station, are well-known across the country for their attachment to their job.

liberation the President met the couple. Listening to the wife Ri Su Tok about her tearful past he said that the women could do something great in the building of a new country when all of them turned out, and that the women of the liberated Korea were a strong pillar in the nation building on a par with the men. Then he awarded her a letter of commendation, a shotgun and a camera as gift. Cherishing his love and trust, Ri organized a guerrilla unit during the Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950–July

their husbands who betrayed the country tricked by the US imperialists, and aroused a great hope in them.

Chairman Kim Jong Il carried forward the President's idea on and exploits in the women's movement. He made public the immortal classic work *Women Are a Powerful Force Which Pushes Forward the Revolution and Construction* on March 8, 1995, and led the Korean women to staunchly follow the road of revolution in any storm and stress.

► Whenever he saw woman soldiers while inspecting the front, he used to say that they were woman revolutionaries playing a big role in national defence, and that it was a great pride for the Party and nation to have such a legion of excellent woman revolutionaries. When he met a woman scientist, he inquired about her major field of study and encouraged her to win fame as a woman scientist making exploration in

saying that the 100th anniversary of the International Women's Day was just round the corner, told to celebrate the day more significantly than ever before. The congratulatory letter he sent on the occasion of the day moved all the people as well as the women. *I feel proud of the women who are loyal to the Party and the leader, devote everything to the prosperity of the country and have a noble ideological and moral trait. Avail-*



Mother Heroine Pak Kum Ok (third left) from Chonma County leaves the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital with her tenth baby amidst the public blessing.

science. On receiving a letter informing that she had received the Doctor's degree, he wrote a reply congratulating her and wishing her a great success in the work of scientific research. Under his warm care an ordinary road maintenance worker in a remote mountain village became a Meritorious Woman of the Songun Era and women who have many children were granted the honour of Mother Heroine.

One day in February 2010 when the centennial anniversary of the International Women's Day was drawing near, Kim Jong Il,

ing myself of this opportunity, I extend my sincere congratulations to all the women across the country for their historic exploits.

The President and the Chairman's policy is securely maintained by the national leader Kim Jong Un. In 2012, when the pains from the demise of the Chairman were still burning in the hearts of the Korean women, Kim Jong Un arranged a splendid performance to congratulate all the women in the country on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

At the fourth national conference of mothers, he placed the participants in the van as excellent mothers who were discharging their duties of the era for the sake of the nation with lofty loyalty and patriotism. This was the expression of his greatest trust.

The leader made sure that the Breast Tumour Research Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital was erected wonderfully. He visited ordinary families moving into new flats, bringing sets of kitchenware to them. He saw a wonderful hostel was built for the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill most of whose workers are women and gave a large party to them on the occasion of May Day.

When the first woman pilots of pursuit planes made their debut in the country, the supreme leader went to see them. He said that it was an auspicious event for the entire nation, and that they were proud daughters of the country, laudable daughters of the people and indomitable woman revolutionaries. He kindly asked them where they were from and what their parents were. Saying that their parents would be very happy to hear that their dear daughters in the post of national defence were woman pilots of pursuit planes, he posed with them for photos, asking to send the photos to their parents and introduce them to the whole country.

Today in Korea the women fully exercise their right of speech in the people's assemblies at all levels including the Supreme People's Assembly, doing their bit in the effort for national prosperity, many of them as Heroines, Meritorious Women of the Songun Era and important officials.

Sim Yong Jin



Korean Women's Pride

THE KOREAN WOMEN, ENJOYING TRUE life in the embrace of the benevolent motherland, are doing their best to repay the deep care of their country.

Quadruple judo queen

All of the Korean people know well that Kye Sun Hui won the World Judo Championships four times. When she was a little girl, she threw boys of her age to the ground, astounding even adults. The girl of superior physical build was chosen to learn judo in a regular system of reserves training when she was nine. Her physical and technical ability improved and she was the national champion in several categories. Thus she began to take part in international competitions.

When she, 16, had her national flag hoisted in the US by winning first place in the Atlanta Olympic Games and returned home, most of the Pyongyang citizens turned out to accord her warm welcome along the streets, and she was awarded the title of the People's Athlete. Later, she participated in the World Judo Championships four times and snatched

gold medals in her categories by defeating all her rivals. The state showed great appreciation of her feats and conferred the Kim Il Sung Prize and the title of the DPRK Labour Hero on her.

Now this mother is senior judo coach of the Moranbong Sports Team. She says, "Though I was born in an ordinary family, I came to be famous across the country and throughout the world. Without our benevolent socialist system, my talent could

Kye Sun Hui (centre).



- ▶ never have been cultivated and displayed. I'll devote my all to the training of reserve athletes to add more gold medals to my country."

Honoured woman scientist

In November 2013 when the national leader Kim Jong Un had souvenir photos taken with the participants in the national conference of scientists and technicians, a female scientist presented a bouquet of fragrant flowers to the leader on behalf of all the scientists and technicians of the country. She is Kim Hye Rim, head of the gas purification laboratory, the Environmental Engineering Institute, the State Academy of Sciences. She is a meritorious scientist who has distinguished herself in the study of waste gas purification in many factories and enterprises of the country.

In appreciation of the efforts of the scientist who regards national affairs more important than her own and devotes her all to the research work, the state gave her a flat in the Wisong Scientists Residential District and the first holiday ticket of the



Kim Hye Rim.

Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp. In addition, it highly appreciated her success in scientific research and conferred the title of Merited Scientist on her in December 2014, like her husband who is a researcher at the State Academy of Sciences.

Her husband says, "Why is the country showing my wife such a great solicitude and warm care? It is because it highly appreciates her unusual patriotic mind to contribute what little she can to the motherland, though her success is not much. So, she is now thinking hard what she should do for the sake of the country."

She is making devoted efforts to contribute to the building of a civilized socialist state and a people's



An Chun Yong (second left).

paradise to help people live in a cleaner environment.

"Our directress"

Anju City, South Phyongan Province, has a woman fondly called "our directress" or "mother directress" by the citizens. She is An Chun Yong, head of the city's Commercial Agency. A woman of small stature, she addresses herself to people with warm smile on her face. Her mind is always full of "anxiety" to do something for the citizens.

When she began to work as chief of the commercial agency six years ago, (formerly she had been a manageress of a small clothes factory) some people shook their heads, doubting the small woman could take good care of the livelihood of the tens of thousands of citizens. At the time, however, they did not know what she had in her mind.

I'll devote all my energy to the welfare of our people whom the country makes so much of, she pledged to herself.

From the next day of her appointment, she understood the actual conditions of the agency and made a detailed plan to supply citizens with foodstuffs and manufactured goods. Along with this, she found out weak points in the agency's work and completed the supply system for the people. She went among the residents to know their living conditions and take measures to make up what they felt was insufficient. In particular, she acquainted herself with the living conditions of the Fatherland Liberation War veterans, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and elderly people, and attached primary attention to their needs. In this course, the citizens began to call her "our directress," and she is now recognized as faithful servant of the people.

Sim Chol Yong

Epoch-making Event of Seventy Years Ago

SEVENTY YEARS HAVE passed since the Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea was proclaimed. Still, the nation vividly remembers the images of the peasants and other working people who were enveloped in an ecstasy of joy and raised cheers over the delightful event that they became the masters of their own land under the agrarian reform law.

In 1946, the first spring in the liberated Korea was an unusually happy season. The peasants came to do farming in their own land. General Kim Il Sung, who had returned in triumph to the liberated country, founded the Workers' Party of Korea and set up the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea, had made up his mind to push ahead with agrarian reform as the first democratic reform.

In the rural villages of the liberated country there remained intact the feudal land ownership and tenant system and the landlords had a large area of land while exploiting the peasants. In

such a situation, only the agrarian reform could free the peasants from the landlords' exploitation and subordination and arouse them to the building of a new country. It could also develop the backward agriculture as soon as possible and give a great impetus to the development of the overall national economy.

In order to make full preparation for and precondition of the agrarian reform, Kim Il Sung saw to it that peasants' co-operatives were organized in all villages so that the peasants were rallied and trained in a revolutionary way through practical struggles. He went among the peasants to know their desire and requirement as regards the reform. He visited villages in Taedong County, South Phyongan Province, and other regions from December 1945 to February 1946, sat knee to knee with peasants and learned in detail what they wanted. How many people there were in their families, how much area they cultivated of the landlords' land, how much rent the

landlords collected, how much area of land was needed for each hand, how many hectares an able-bodied man could cultivate, and how they would manage land if they were given land were the points of his study. During this period, he confirmed the objects of land confiscation and the methods to confiscate and distribute land and remove the tenant system in accordance with the actual condition of the country's rural villages.

On this basis, he made public the historic *Law on Agrarian Reform in North Korea* on March 5, 1946. Under the slogan "Land to the tillers!" he put forth the fundamental principle of the agrarian reform to make peasants the real master of the land. The reform was enforced on the principle of unindemnified confiscation and distribution. As a result more than 720 000 peasant households came to be free from the feudal exploitation and subordination and the peasants' age-old desire to do farming in their own land was realized.

After proclaiming the reform, he visited the then Songmun-ri, Sijok Sub-county, Taedong County. Having heard the local peasants' stories of bitter tears, he proposed that the house and household goods of the local landlord (who had fled away) be given to a peasant who had been a servant of the landlord for a long time. Then he wrote the peasant's name Pak Jang Ban on the doorplate and personally nailed it to the gate. He went out to the field Pak had been given and set up a

**Peasants are happy to have
land of their own.**



History Brimming With Noble Moral Obligation (4)

By I. Ya. Novichenko

WHEN WE LEFT THE hospital in the provincial capital and arrived at our home village with the bier of my father, we were surprised to see staff members of the DPRK embassy in Moscow and some other Korean officials waiting for us there. One of them approached me and said that Chairman Kim Jong Il of the DPRK National Defence Commission had sent a telegram of condolence and a wreath in deep sorrow over the death of my father and that the DPRK government had sent a sum of money for the funeral service.

The wreath was placed in front of the bier, with the ribbon reading, "In memory of the late internationalist fighter Ya. T. Novichenko, Kim Jong Il."

It was a funeral ever seen in Travnoye. When the telegram of condolence was read out solemnly, I was overwhelmed with thankfulness to the DPRK leader for his wreath and telegram of sympathy over the death of a foreign war veteran.

Provincial and district officials and war veterans present on the occasion were also impressed by Chairman Kim Jong Il's noble

sense of international obligation. The Chairman looked after my family even after father died, and now the DPRK leader Kim Jong Un is taking good care of us just as his predecessors did. Thanks to their kind-hearted care, my mother Maria lived a long life before she died in March 2013 at over 90. At the time we received a telegram of condolence from Kim Jong Un, the supreme leader of the DPRK. It read:

**"Novosibirsk
"Bereaved
family of Com-
rade Yakov Tik-
honovich Novi-
chenko**

"I would like to extend my deep condolence to you bereaved family of the late Maria Yevmenovna Novichenko, wife of Yakov Tikhonovich Novichenko who is a dear friend of the Korean people and an internationalist

fighter, on receiving the sad news of her death.

"Kim Jong Un

**"May 7, Juche 102 (2013).
Pyongyang"**

We were almost shocked. As



we had planned to hold the funeral without ceremony we had never expected any telegram of condolence from the DPRK that was still in agony over the nation's greatest loss. We were all moved to tears for the concern of ►

► picket for the marker.

The door-plate and land marker are still kept in the minds of the Korean agricultural workers and people as the valuable symbol that they are the permanent master of the land.

The song that shows the then

joy and delight of the Korean peasants who came to be the master of the land thanks to Kim Il Sung's unlimited benevolence still resounds over the socialist land.

*Cranes are flapping slowly
around the top of Mt. Paektu*

*And cuckoos are cuckooing in
the liberated homeland.
O, the land given by
our General.
Eruhwa teruhwa, let all of us
turn out to till land.*

Kim Won Sik

- the Korean leader who showed his sympathy with us ordinary people when he himself was in untold pain over the loss of the national leader while heavily burdened with the affairs of the country. We told ourselves that the Korean leaders were really great personalities who kept friendship as boundless as the Siberian land and as eternal as the birch forests.

We decided to send a letter of thanks to Kim Jong Un. It read:

“Esteemed leader
Kim Jong Un

“We have experienced a number of sad things in recent years. After President Kim Il Sung passed away my father died. The untimely demise of Chairman Kim Jong Il was really a great blow to our family. And now we lost our mother Maria Yevmenovna Novichenko who was so gentle, caring and kind-hearted towards us and Korean friends. Thanks to your kindness the Korean comrades were the closest and dearest friends to us in the last funeral. Our family looked like a big international family. Availing ourselves of this opportunity we would like to extend greetings of profound thanks to you and other Korean comrades for your care for our family.”

In his celebrated reminiscences President Kim Il Sung wrote that but for the sense of obligation there would hardly be genuine succession to history and tradition. The continuing history and tradition of internationalism between the Russian and Korean peoples are based on the noble sense of obligation kept by the great leaders of the DPRK.

With the passage of time the care of the leaders for us Novichenkos is getting warmer.

Kim Jong Un is showing us great love, affection and trust just like his predecessors did. The history and tradition are faithfully carried forward thanks to the world of noble internationalist obligation of Kim Jong Un who is another great personality after President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

In the Fatherland Liberation War Museum in Pyongyang there is a jewel-painted portrait of Ya. T. Novichenko, a second lieutenant of the Red Army. This is a symbol of the history and future of the Russia-Korea friendship which will go steady and laudable like the jewel. I know Korea is a nation that is loyal to the internationalist duty. It is capable of defending the red flag and cherishes the memory of those who dedicated their blood and sweat to the cause of justice.

There are many nations in the world who argue for internationalist obligation, but I am ready to say Korea is the very cradle of internationalist obligation. The Korean sense of internationalism means thoroughgoing loyalty to global peace, conscience and justice without any concession or compromise. The country, relying on the patriotism-based unity between the national leader, the Party, the army and the people, is rendering contribution to the safeguarding of global peace by defending its national sovereignty through relentless blows to the allied imperialist forces, and for this its internationalism commands a growing say and influence. The Korean internationalism is uncompromising against the enemy or injustice, and is of great caliber, generous and open

to brethren and friends. The last 70 years of the world history shows that Korea's internationalism is the sample of genuine internationalism and that as it was and is under the supervision of the great leaders it is the model for the world to learn.

On the 100th birth anniversary of my father the schoolchildren of my village praised, in front of my father's old home, the heroic feats of my father who had defended Kim Il Sung, the great leader of the Korean people, at the risk of his life. They pledged to work for improvement of the Russia-Korea friendship by emulating the self-sacrificing spirit of the internationalist fighter. It was quite an impressive scene. How good it is that the new-generation Russians made up their mind to be flowers in the garden of internationalism and invariably carry forward the history and tradition of friendship between Russia and Korea.

I believe that President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il will command eternal praise from all the people for their priceless model of internationalism they left for the sake of humanity. And I am convinced that the respected leader Kim Jong Un's noble sense of internationalist obligation will bring about a more beautiful and just international relationship.

I am sure that the history and tradition of Russia-Korea friendship will continue generation after generation on the strength of the untiring efforts of the leaders, armies and peoples of the two countries.

I wish the dear nation of Korea eternal happiness, prosperity and glory. □

Principle of Primary Importance in Building Thriving Socialist Nation

THE KOREAN PEOPLE ARE NOW ALL OUT in the struggle to pave a broad avenue for the revolution and construction with their own effort under the uplifted banner of “Let us usher in a golden age in building a thriving nation in this year when the Seventh Congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea is to be held!”

Self-reliance is a priceless tradition of the Korean revolution. Based on the scientific theory of the Juche idea which maintains that one is the master of one’s own destiny and has the power to carve out one’s destiny, the principle of self-reliance has been an effective means of the Korean revolution to survive manifolds of difficulties and ordeals in each period and stage of its development.

In the 1940s when the country was liberated from the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists, Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, advanced the line of building an independent national economy, firmly convinced that it was essential for the nation to set up a self-supporting economy and achieve economic independence without fail if it was to become a completely sovereign and independent state with a prosperous economy.

After the nation finished the cause of socialist industrialization and establishment of a socialist system, the President kept the belief that the socialist system could make steady development only when it was based on a due material and technical foundation commensurate with the system; with the belief he pushed the policy of making the national economy Juche-oriented and putting it on a modern and scientific basis under the slogan of “Let us display more of the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance!”

Chairman Kim Jong Il, following suit, made a famous remark that they should carry on the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance invariably despite the passage of time and change of generations, and gave wise guidance for all sectors and units of the national economy to go ahead with the slogan of “Let us live our own way!” He was most pleased when he came to see things made in the spirit of self-reliance, and gave a pep talk to the officials, workers and technicians for a greater endeavour. The more serious and

arduous challenges they were faced with, the faster the Korean people held to the revolutionary banner of self-reliance under the wise leadership of the Chairman while building up their national potentialities and pressing ahead with the revolution and construction in their own way.

The supreme leader Kim Jong Un, in his New Year Address this year, stressed the need to maintain the principle of giving priority to self-development in building a thriving socialist nation, noting that with affection, trust, dignity and pride in everything of their own, they should achieve the great cause of building a thriving nation and realize the people’s beautiful dreams and ideals without fail by their own efforts, technology and resources.

Last year the country had an important event, in which planes of the Korean make began to fly in the sky and subway trains of the Korean make began to run under the ground. This was a priceless crystallization of the wise guidance of the national leader who is determined to win socialist prosperity as soon as possible on the principle of self-development under the banner of Juche or independence which was upheld by President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il all their life.

The Koreans are now engaged in a dynamic struggle to overcome difficulties and ordeals by their own efforts in all fields of the national economy. Making everything they need by themselves with their own materials is a governing principle in all projects. Taking it as an important policy-oriented requirement to improve product quality, ensure domestic production of equipment and rely on locally available raw and other materials, they are making strenuous efforts to this end. The scientific research sector is giving priority to resolving the scientific and technological problems that arise in consolidating the might of the Juche-based industry, the socialist independent economy, and improving the people’s standard of living. Proactive measures are taken to organize and launch the work of establishing on a full scale the Korean style of economic management method which embodies the Juche idea, thus giving full play to its advantages and vitality.

An Chol Ho



In the Run-up to the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea

Springboard for Rapid Progress

FROM THE MID-1990S, Korea had to go through an indescribably hard time dubbed “Arduous March” and “forced march” in the economic construction and the field of the people’s livelihood. Kim Jong Il, eternal General Secretary of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK), inspired the entire nation to break through the prevailing economic difficulties. Attaching importance to science and technology as one of the three pillars in the building of a thriving socialist nation, he made sure that great national economic potentials were laid

through development of modern science and technology.

In the latter half of the 1990s, Chairman Kim Jong Il, understanding the possible global trend of the machine industry in the coming century and anticipating the future of a thriving socialist nation, kindled and fanned up the campaign of introducing the CNC technology while visiting lots of big and small factories and enterprises across the country including those in Jagang and North Phyongan provinces.

He believed that the machine industry is the heart of the heavy

industry and the foundation for development of all sectors of the national economy and the technical progress, and that it should be developed to produce and supply enough equipment wanted by the economy and thus develop the economy as a whole.

At every opportunity he gave instructions to officials, saying it is important for his nation to become an economic giant if it is to be a thriving nation, that a strategic task in the building of an economic giant is to put the whole country on the basis of the CNC technology, and that the CNC

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex turns out fertilizers from local materials.



- ▶ technology alone can make it possible to create more material wealth with less resources, labour and energy. He saw to it that the nationwide introduction of the CNC technology was pursued as a strategy in the building of an economic power.

Having put forward definite ways and tasks regarding the effort to realize the CNC system in the near future, he gave meticulous guidance. He organized a powerful development team by mobilizing well-qualified scientists, researchers and technicians.

True to his intention, the team developed two- to four-axis CNC machines of a standard type in the 1990s and contributed to making a new step in introduction of the CNC technology. They also developed five-axis machining centres and eight- and nine-axis CNC machine tools in 2000, and soon nine-axis turning centres of a new style which was the most advanced type in the CNC machine tool technology.

Now Kim Jong Il saw to it that a fervour of introducing the CNC technology spread across the country.

In February 2006 he visited a machine-building factory. Going round the working place lined with the CNC machines with pleasure, he gave encouragement to accelerate the effort for the CNC technology. In a little over a year, a new factory was built equipped with the integrated



Part of the Ragwon Machine Complex equipped with the CNC technology.

production system, a higher level in the introduction of the CNC technology.

On a visit to a machine factory in May 2009, the Chairman formulated a magnificent plan to raise the machine tool industry up to the higher standard. Later the factory produced lots of various modern CNC machines, contributing to the effort to put the whole country on the CNC basis.

He gave another inspection to this factory in March 2010, when he set a new target to break through the cutting edge. This meant the signal of the beginning of the Korean people's struggle to push back frontiers in science and technology for the building of a thriving nation. "Break Through the Cutting Edge!" became an inspiring slogan in the struggle of the Korean people for the building of a thriving nation in the new century.

The Chairman wisely led the struggle to break through the cutting-edge science and technology in all the sectors of the national economy including the metallurgical industry, light industry and agriculture, to say nothing of the machine industry. Under his wise leadership, the successes were registered in the researches to introduce intensive

and scientific formulas into agricultural production; the Juche-oriented iron and steel making methods were developed; and computer-aided systems of production and supply were introduced in the coal mining and power industries.

Entering the new century, Kim Jong Il sparked the campaign for industrial revolution to make a knowledge-based economy. The industrial revolution in the new century was a grand strategic line of socialist construction of the WPK put forward to build a knowledge-based economic giant by breaking through the cutting edge.

He made sure that the campaign for the CNC technology found its way to not only important enterprises in the national economy but also to small local industry factories.

Under his wise leadership there came waves of eye-opening events, typically mass-production of the Juche fertilizer and the establishment of the magnesia industry on the Juche-oriented and locally-fed basis. They provided a springboard for rapid progress in the building of a socialist economic power.

Pak Chong Sop





Iron and Steel Production Soars up

LAST NOVEMBER THE workers of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex appealed to their fellow workers across the country to make an unprecedented record in production to greet the Seventh Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea slated for the coming May. As the pacesetter in the campaign for increased production, they are now effecting a sharp increase in production of iron and steel these days.

Building on the modernization of a UHP electric arc furnace, introduction of the high-temperature air combustion tech-

nology and the laying of the processes of production of alloy and heavy-duty rail, the complex last year successfully transformed the frequency converter of a large oxygen plant to suit the local condition in cooperation with researchers of the Kim Chaek University of Technology, the State Academy of Sciences and other educational institutions and research centres. This means the laying of a solid foundation for the increased production of Juche iron and other kinds of iron and steel materials of high quality.

Now the enterprise is fed with

iron ores from the northern and western districts of the country to produce molten iron by the method of continuous feeding and tapping from an oxygen-blast furnace.

All the main production processes as well as the related ones are controlled in a single integrated system. At the moment the complex is dynamically pushing ahead with the project to modernize the production processes on a higher level while increasing the production by making effective use of the existing foundation.

Sim Hyon Jin







Natural Graphite Brush

THE HISTORY OF BRUSH is estimated at 200 years. At present the rapid economic development requires lots of high quality brushes needed for rotating electric machines including electric motors and generators.

The DPRK has developed the natural graphite brush that is of high economic profitability and never harms the human health, and is making use of it in many fields of the economy. It has been proved that the natural graphite brush is better than metal or artificial graphite ones for its physical, chemical and mechanical qualities like density, electric conductivity and intensity.

Many years ago the IEC approved the international standard IEC/PAS for the material as international certification that the natural graphite material from Korea can be used to make the highest quality brush in the world. And in September 2015 it also rated the DPRK's natural graphite brush as a superior kind and approved the international standard IEC/TR63021 for it. The brushes for rotating electric machines produced in many countries are estimated to be of over 1 000 kinds but it is only the DPRK's natural graphite brush that listed as an international standard.

The natural graphite brush is the fruit of devotion of the scientists, technicians and workers of the Korea Natural Graphite Trading Company. In the early 1980s, Jo Il Suk, a scientist, came to know about the trend and prospect of the development of the



brush of electric motor while reading science books from many countries. She set a daring goal to develop a natural graphite brush from the graphite richly found in her own country. So she began her research into the natural graphite brush in the sci-tech service room in the Grand People's Study House and soon a team was formed for the research. It took decades for them to achieve the present success after a protracted and persistent struggle against failures. The patriotism they kept in mind to make a contribution to the building of a thriving nation despite of shortage of everything and hardships, drove them to the complete success in the research on the brush of 100 percent natural graphite. In those days they

developed a new and unique binder and completed the scientific research into manufacture of the natural graphite brushes, thus laying a solid sci-tech basis for mass-production of the brush. Dr. Jo Il Suk, president of the company, says, "The demand for the natural graphite brush we developed is growing day after day in foreign countries as well as in ours. In the future we will rush towards the higher goal, actively sticking research to production."

The natural graphite brush never causes sparks and lasts long in hard-working conditions of repeated starts of operation. And as it is worn away into pieces instead of dust, it never harms the ecological environment and is easy to check up. The users of the brush from various countries say that it is absolutely superior to other kinds in terms of operation, economic profit and environmental protection.

Pak Thae Ho

Styles of Footwear on the Increase

“I LIKE THE STYLES AND colours of these shoes.”

“I often come here because I can find comfortable shoes of new styles here.”

These are some of the words of common consent from the customers shopping at stores and

which is the primary process in shoemaking. Also, they set it an important task to produce shoes of a new style that would meet the desire of the people for higher cultural and aesthetic standards.

Day after day they devoured sci-tech books—sometimes

cutting, sewing and shoemaking with the computer program, and the production increased considerably.

Gradually, the work of developing new products gained momentum. Attention was paid to the study and designing of goods that could meet the varying demands of people with different likings and interests of different genders and ages. Efforts were also directed to reduction of their weights.

The factory held exhibitions of newly developed products amidst deep concern of the workers. Seeing the new and unique products of smart designs, the workers said the goods were much better than older ones in style and practical use. They were very popular among the customers as well and the demand for them grew day by day. The shoes they presented to the 26th national consumer goods exhibition won the diploma of best exhibit and the first prize at the 30th national sci-tech festival. All of the workers were happy to congratulate the designers.

Kim Yon Sun, the head of the technical arrangement section, says, “We will maintain creative thinking and bold practice and thus make every product contribute to the happiness of the people.”

The managers and workers of the factory, full of determination to lead the effort to make footwear of many kinds, many styles and many colours, are redoubling their endeavour for research and production.

Kang Hye Ok



shops including Pyongyang Department Store No. 1. The favourite shoes of the people are produced by the Ryuwon Footwear Factory.

The factory had quite a few problems when it went online. It took a long time and lots of labour in all processes from preparation of materials to the final touch in shoemaking. Still, the shoes were not acceptable to the public for their poor style, colour and quality.

The members of the technical arrangement section rose up to solve these problems. The goal they set was to solve the sci-tech problems arising in every process of production as well as designing,

through the night. They solved problems one by one with the help of researchers from relevant institutions including the Kim Chaek University of Technology and the Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry. In the meantime they verified achievements in their research, making shoes according to their new design. And they frequently talked to the experienced veteran workers about the actual condition of production. At last a computer-aided 3-D design was worked out thanks to the collective intelligence of the technical staff and the sincere assistance of the skilled workers. As a result the factory became able to do

Ideal Green Drink Producer

THE KANGSO MINERAL Water Factory is located in Chongsan-ri, Kangso District, Nampho City. From of old the Kangso mineral water was well known for its efficacy in health improvement and the local people began to use it hundreds of years ago.

The country built a factory there in 1974 to tap the spring for health drink. After a refashioning project in October 2003 the factory's area grew to more than 89 000 square metres with the total floor space at over 10 300 square metres. All production processes are of modern style and new techniques are employed in the comprehensive control system and conditioning devices to further increase the efficiency in production.

At first the workers found it difficult to operate the comprehensive control system. They felt the control very intricate, and when there was an error, the recovery cost much effort. This was a bottleneck in normal production. With the aid of scientists of the State Academy of Sciences, the technicians of the factory

buckled down to the technical renovation. However, it was not an easy job. Even a small problem took them several days to solve. The workers also turned out as one, saying that they are responsible for technical renovation as well. "Supply our people with more mineral water—this was a unanimous determination of my factory's employees," says Choe Sang Gak, manager of production and technical affairs. Amidst their enthusiasm, a rational control system was successfully remoulded, resulting in the output jumping 2.5-3 times.

Kangso mineral water stands are ubiquitous in Pyongyang, and there are queues of customers. At a stand in Pothonggang District, Pyongyang, a woman said, "Pyongyang is tens of kilometres away from Nampho. But I can have the Kangso mineral water any day just in front of my house. Drinking it continuously, I feel ten years younger."

The factory set a higher goal to meet the public demand and is now making an endeavour to hit it early.

The Kangso mineral water

was already awarded the DPRK certificate of origin on December 5, 2006 and the WIPO certificate of origin on December 3, 2007, and officially established as a pure and clean natural drink through examinations of the SGS in 2008 and 2011. It was ranked among the top three at the water exhibition Beijing 2012 winning an honour award. Later it was favourably commented upon at water exhibitions and fairs in many countries.

Kangso mineral water, 100% natural soda water giving a stinging, refreshing and exhilarating sensation by tingling the mouth and tongue, is efficacious in preventing metabolic disorders as it has good influence on metabolism of protein, lipid and saccharine, and has an ideal ratio of microelements for health of pregnant and nursing women and unborn babies' growth.

Mun Chun Gwang, president of the Korea Unha Mineral Water Trading Company, says, "The success we have achieved is nothing but a start. We'll supply the people with more mineral water by making the most of the strong foundation."

Pak Yong Il



Efforts to Talent Training



THE PYONGYANG HAN Tok Su University of Light Industry is putting emphasis on training talent as required by the developing reality. In keeping with its mission and duty it decided on the type of talent and the goal of their training in the direc-

tion of priority to scholarly persons and proper combination with the training of practical talent needed in different fields. Then it ►

The textile and clothing engineering laboratory.



The daily-necessity chemical engineering laboratory.



► rearranged faculties, departments and courses, and set up new necessary courses.

The university is also directing a great effort to improvement of the content, methods, condition and environment of education. Based on collective discussion of the teachers it drew up a broader and diversified curriculum and is making complete e-teaching plans for each subject. Thus, several subjects including plastics process engineering, CAD in clothes industry, textile material technology and fermentation technology were refashioned so as to put the educational content on a practical and comprehensive basis.

Through seminars on teaching methods and demonstration lessons teachers learn experience from excellent teachers. Pae Chun Hui, teacher of textile engineering department who gave a demonstration lesson some time ago, says, "This is an era of rapid development when things change beyond recognition day by day. This requires talent of practical

ability badly. I know it's a task of us teachers."

Demonstration lessons were also given in the departments of dying engineering and plastics process engineering. The educational experience presentations rendered a great service in teaching the students, typically "Way to Improve Educational Content and Method of Training Practical Talent in Footwear Engineering" by Kim Yong Chol, department head of the footwear engineering, and "Experience in Realizing Practicality, Generalization and Modernization of Teaching Content of Organic Chemistry" by Sok Thae Hyong, teacher of the chemistry department of the basic science faculty.

Last year 63 theses were published on educational methodology, contributing to improvement of students' attainments and teachers' qualifications.

The university is also directing great efforts to distance learning. It selected 23 major subjects and drew up teaching

plans that leave the choice of subjects with the applicants. It has opened a distance-learning site consisting of the teachers' page, the students' page, the attainments page and the examination page. So workers at over 70 factories and enterprises are attending the distance learning. And through the intranet the university is creating an education-supporting database which will be conducive to the activities of teachers and learning of students. The textile material department developed a rational database by itself, and actively applies it into education and study.

All the teachers conducted the work to make database of e-textbooks, multimedia, simulation programs and sci-tech data for preparation of a new school year.

A number of students won the University Student Scientific Research Prize, patent rights and academic degrees. ➡

Ri Chung Ho

The electronic auditorium.



Practical Contribution to Production

IN THE END OF LAST YEAR THE KIM CHAEK Iron and Steel Complex, a giant metallurgical base in northern Korea, carried through a big plan, thus modernizing a dozen processes including the hot-rolling one and introducing the CNC technology.

Those successes were partly attributable to the unknown efforts of a research team of the rolling engineering department of the material engineering faculty of the Kim Chaek University of Technology. Earlier the faculty had conducted a research into bar



production with a three-roll screw mill and applied the result into production, making a great contribution to the production of different sizes of bars.

Several years ago when a campaign was being waged dynamically to modernize some production processes of the complex, the university dispatched to the spot a research team headed by Son Ryong Chol, head of the rolling engineering department. The team conducted the work to improve the production processes which control the quality of steel plates in the cooling, universal rolling, and continuous finishing stages.

First of all, they decided to modernize the cooling process on the basis of an analysis of the poor mechanical property of the steel plate. By pooling cooperation with the technicians and workers of the complex, the researchers carried out an overall analysis of the old cooling system. In the course of this, they

found out that the injection cooling part of the 90-m-long cooling system did not work properly. After measuring in detail the mechanical property of the steel plate from the hot-rolling process they knew that some points of the plate were far from standard. The cause, in general, lay in the old-fashioned type of the process.

The research team decided to introduce a new cooling technology on the basis of analysing the working conditions and the latest sci-tech documents. They formed a cooling system on the principle of using low-pressure hot-working circulating water, drew up a dozen designs for a laminar cooling device as well as a pipe network, different valves and flow meter, and then established a method of installing a manometer. Building on those successes they gave successful technical instruction to the job of installing the laminar cooling device ranging scores of metres, and soon ensured a successful no-load test operation and load test operation at a try.

Meanwhile, the researchers confirmed important points in a cooling process suitable to the existing production conditions in collaboration with the complex's technicians and workers. Thanks to the introduction of a new process, the overall index of coefficients of elongation reached the permissible values, and the index of intensity has further improved than before, raising the ratio of acceptable mechanical property up to 98%. The researchers also realized the optimization of process aimed at guaranteeing the quality of the plate and lowered the thickness deviation down to 0.07mm. Consequently, the actual pass rate of plate rose to 97%, rendering the modernization of the hot-rolling process successful.

Now the department gives lectures to the students by introducing substantial scientific data. It has also opened several subjects like "Shaped Steel Rolling," "Sheet Rolling" and "Production of Bending Rolled Goods," thus further improving the quality of education.

Sim Chol Yong

Master of Abdominal Surgery

JI CHUNG SA, HEAD OF the abdominal surgery department, Clinical Science Faculty No. 2, Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University, is a member of the Academic Degrees and Titles Consideration Committee in charge of medical science, chairman of the Research Society of the Ministry of Public Health, chairman of the Surgical Committee and chairman of the Abdominal Surgery Committee of the Korean Medical Association. People say he is an authoritative scientist who has realized his hope, and a master of abdominal surgery.

Scientist fulfils his hope

Ji was hopeless as child. He spent his childhood in Japan. From early morning he had to deliver newspapers and run errand to earn his school expenses himself. At night he looked after his sick mother. Living in Japan where moneyless people cannot get treatment he cherished a hope to become a doctor. But it was an unattainable wish in Japan.

When Ji was 16, the return of Koreans to their motherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was begun. He courageously left high school and returned to the motherland, because he had harboured a dream to realize his hope in the DPRK where people, he heard from his parents, learn and live equally. When his Japanese classmates asked him how he could live alone without parents, he said proudly, "You know, I go to the motherland which is better than the care of mother."

The motherland warmly welcomed the compatriots on their return. Now he enrolled at the then Phyongnam Medical College as he wished, and, after graduation from it, he went on to the

then Pyongyang University of Medicine. Under the benefit of free education he studied on scholarship, and after finishing university he became a surgical teacher at his alma mater. He worked with all his wisdom and effort for education, treatment and scientific research. Appreciating his sincere efforts dedicated to the people's health and education the State gave him the doctor's degree and the associated professorship, and granted him a modern apartment house in Mirae Scientists Street. Overwhelmed with gratitude for the State benefit he said to his children, "People often say I've realized my hope as scientist. Yet that childhood hope of mine would be inconceivable apart from the care of my motherland."

Master of abdominal surgery

Enthusiasm can be counted above all else when we talk about Ji's personalities. The teachers in his department and his disciples say that they cannot think of Ji without enthusiasm. His appearance of delving into the world of medical science persistently day and night with untiring zeal and will has been his unchangeable image for his over 40-year-long career.

In the early 1990s he made a contribution to application of advanced science and technology into operation for gastric ulcer and duodenal ulcer. From 1998 he turned over a new leaf in operation for gastric cancer, which was appreciated by the medical world at that time. Later, he studied and introduced many advanced methods of operation and treatment relating to gastric cancer. The new operation methods updated by him several times turned out to be of little danger with low



incidence of complication after operation compared to the previous technology of alimentary canal reconstruction, and be quite helpful to increase in weight.

In his doctor's career he carried out as many as 10 000 operations and won over 40 certificates including the certificate of patent right, certificate of invention, certificate of new registered technology and certificate of registered sci-tech achievement by developing a laparoscopic surgery trainer and an abdominal surgery study program, and others. And he has written over 40 books such as *Compendium of Surgery* and *Surgical Data Handbook*. Meanwhile, he won first place at national sci-tech festivals a dozen times, and rendered service to the development of the country's medical science and the work of diffusing medical techniques through symposiums on abdominal surgery science over 130 times.

When people call him master of abdominal surgery, he says, "I think honour rests on the extent of practical contribution to the training of students as good medical workers, to the restoration of ailing people, and to education." He is still working devotedly for improvement of the people's health.

Kim Hyon Ju

True Servants of the People

SEVERAL YEARS HAVE passed since the Ministry of Public Health General Dental Hospital was built for the sake of the people on the picturesque Taedong River flowing across Pyongyang. Over the years the hospital staff have worked hard for modernization of dental treatment. Now people call them “true servants” in appreciation of their active contribution to promotion of the people’s health.

The patients have to get scaling of tartar in the department of oral hygiene before receiving dental treatment according to a given diagnosis. This awakens the patients of the need to know about the dental diseases and have common knowledge on how to take care of their teeth. Visitors and their family members say in unison that they’ve got a lot of knowledge about dental diseases there and that their visit is quite worthy.

The dentists work devotedly. They have made various devices for treatment and make an effective

use of them. An ultrasonic scaler was invented by the department of periodontopathy, an ultrasonic root canal washer and an aspirator-dryer by the department of conservation, and a functional correction appliance introduced by the department of correction to add to the beauty of the patients’ teeth. Especially the department of correction has many patients whose teeth are uneven. After many months of their treatment in the hospital, the patients feel happy with their well-ordered teeth. One of the most laudable achievements of the hospital is that they developed materials needed in the treatment of fractured jawbone from domestic resources. Also, they made, for the first time in Korea, an artificial temporal jawbone joint and successfully grafted it. The surgeons also add aesthetic value to the patients’ appearance by introducing a new medical method in treatment of excessively-underhung or unbalanced appearance. It takes only

one week to recover the function of the jaw to have a meal when the period of treatment by old methods took 40 days in the past.

The cosmetic surgery department studied cosmesis with the use of fat stem cell and introduced it into clinical treatment to reduce the period of absorption of graft drastically and heighten the effect of cosmesis. And they studied how to make implants and completed the implant manufacturing process relying on the CNC technology and achieved success in introducing them in clinical treatment through zoopery. Porcelain false teeth were introduced in prosthesis for hundreds of patients for three years. Tens of devices they have invented were presented to six rounds of national exhibitions of medical appliances, and many of the devices won prizes.

The doctors of the hospital go often out to workplaces. They treated, on the spot, the miners in the Sunchon Area Youth Coal Mining Complex including the February 8 Jiktong Coal Mine and workers on labour-consuming jobs including the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex, thus encouraging their zeal for production.

Kim Thae Il, vice director in charge of technical affairs, says, “We will intensify studies on dental problems to make an active contribution to the promotion of the people’s health and faithfully discharge our responsibility as servants in charge of the people’s health.”

Sim Yong Jin



For Forty Years

THE PULGUNGORI Junior Middle School in Pot-honggang District, Pyongyang, is famous for tennis. Whenever they are asked about its secret, teachers and members of the tennis team ascribe their success to Hong Sun Ryong who has worked as a sports teacher for 40 years. Though gray haired, he is in full spirit teaching tennis.

He began to teach how to play tennis in the late 1970s when he was appointed sports teacher at the then Pulgungori Senior Middle School after graduation from the Kim Hyong Jik University of Education Sports Faculty. One day he came across a newspaper article that a basketball team trained by a teacher of a mountain village school had defeated a professional sports team. It was quite impressive.

At the time football, basketball and volleyball were widely encouraged. However, tennis was not popular yet. Under these circumstances, he made up his mind to teach his students to play tennis good at developing quick movements and prompt judgment and cultivating will. He knew it was very important to give good basic training to children.

He organized a tennis team, laid out courts in the playground and prepared rackets and balls himself. He selected some students, and drew up a training plan for each of them according to



their ages and physical conditions. New means and ways of training efficacious for developing their basic techniques were also developed. In the morning he gave lessons and in the afternoon trained his tennis team members. Though he used to be knocked up with work, he never stopped training students but braced himself up.

As time went by, the players felt tired of training. Some of them lost interest in tennis, a strange event for them, and became dispirited. It was something usual with those who just begin exercise. Hong Sun Ryong encouraged them, saying, "Hard start will lead you to easy end. You can make a success only with sweat. Let's exert ourselves."

He gave explanation of the basic movements in plain words, showed demonstrations himself and often presented himself as

the opponent. He also made a strict demand on performance of correct movement. Once a week he took his tennis team members to several professional sports teams to see their training and matches and easily grasp knacks. His strenuous efforts accelerated the development of their technical level up to a high standard.

Some years later his team won a national competition. For scores of years since then, they have won the tennis event of the Jongilbong Prize national schoolchildren's games and the national junior championships tens of times. They snatched gold medals in men's team, men and women's singles and doubles at the 41st Jongilbong Prize national schoolchildren's games in 2015.

A lot of disciples he trained were selected by many sports teams. Some are coaches.

Choe Kyong Hui, headmistress of the school, says, "Merited Teacher Hong Sun Ryong is always with tennis. With a belief that the students who bring honour to the school will be excellent players able to add glory to the country, he begins his daily routine by going round the tennis ground everyday."

The tennis ground in the small school tells that such patriotic devotion is nurturing a great hope in the younger generations.

Pak Thae Ho

Misfortune Into Blessing

IN AUGUST 22 LAST YEAR downpour and flood hit Sonbong District, Rason City in the northern part of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It had been raining for a week, and from the evening that day it showered over 100mm per hour. Rocks crashed, and huge trees as a whole with even roots wrecked apartment houses. The dwelling houses disappeared with the mud covering the area one metre deep.

When Kim Jong Un, First

Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea, was briefed on the circumstances toward 9 in the evening, he said that it was most important to settle the life of the people as early as possible who were left homeless, and that the construction of dwelling houses should be finished before the 70th founding anniversary of the WPK to let the flood victims move into new houses before the weather turned cold. Several days later, at an enlarged meeting of the Central

Military Commission of the WPK, the issue of rehabilitating the flood-stricken Rason was discussed, and Kim Jong Un ordered the Korean People's Army in his capacity as the Supreme Commander to take full charge of the rehabilitation project.

Immediately elite units of the army rushed to the afflicted area. Following them, volunteers came to the city from across the country. While carrying out the ground-making of houses, the

Flood victims dance happily moving into new houses.



► builders laid out garden plots in the yards of the new houses and planted seeds of various vegetables. They worked hard day and night in a three-dimensional way. They completed the erection of walls in ten days. The time set to them was 30 days. In the period they had to finish the project and let the flood victims settle in warm houses. Meanwhile, none of the many homeless were left to sleep outdoors. They were invited by other people to share their houses. Warm care awaited them everywhere.

In September last the national leader Kim Jong Un visited the reconstruction site and said over again that the campaign to restore the flood-damaged city was a sacred struggle to secure the trust in the Party the people keep deep in their mind. In hearty response to his call, the constructors erected a wonderful community in a little over 30 days. One-storey houses for over 1 300 households sprang up in Paekhak-dong along with a nursery, a kindergarten and public welfare facilities, and houses for another 500 families were built in Chong-

gye-dong, Yuhyon-dong and other places.

In October last the national leader visited the rebuilt city again. Saying that he would feel at ease only when he first looked around the newly-built quarters, he gladly announced that he had been in a happy frame of mind all the way. Learning in detail about the new houses by asking if they were better than the earlier ones, if the floor of the dwelling houses was warm, and if they had a plenty of water supply, the leader said he was pleased to hear the people were satisfied with the new houses, that he was working hard to earn such a happy feeling, and that it was the happiest event and the greatest pride to him.

Thanks to his meticulous concern, TV sets, household furniture, kitchen utensils, clothes, household articles, and fuel were provided to the residents before their moving. Concerned at the approach of the cold winter the leader sent them even quilted coats. The day the people moved into the cosy dwelling houses equipped with all household

things, they cheered for the WPK and socialism.

Pak Yong Chol, a fisherman of the Sonbong Fishing Station, said, "We were left homeless by the sudden flood, but now we're enjoying a happier life than those who had not been affected. We have got all the benefits. Experiencing those days of rehabilitation we were firmly convinced that we have nothing to fear, whatever difficulties and ordeals they are, as we have our respected leader Kim Jong Un."

Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the WPK Central Committee, dated October 10, 2015 wrote: "There are so many mountain villages and islets in this land as it is mountainous and has a long coast. So many streets and villages we have in this country. Though the sun is far away, its light and warmth are always with us. There are nearby and distant places on the land, but that's not a case in the embrace of our Party. The more distant and the smaller they are, the more closely and warmly they are looked after by the Party."

Jong Kyong Bok



It Was Not a Dream

ONE SUNDAY IN MID-FEBRUARY I CAME across two students with bouquets in their hands when I got to Block No. 80 of the Mirae Scientists Street which was newly built last year. They were Choe Myong Gwang and Jang Chol Min in the fourth year of the Architectural College, the Pyongyang University of Architecture. Questioned about the bouquets, they replied that they came to present them to one of their teachers in celebration of his completion of new teaching materials.

With occupational curiosity I followed them to Flat No. 4 on the sixth floor. Exchanging greetings ►



► with the host, I realized that the teacher was one of the people who had cut the red ribbon in the inauguration ceremony of the street.

“Welcome to my home,” he said and introduced himself as teacher Yun Kwang Chol at the acoustics and illumination department of the Architectural College of the Pyongyang University of Architecture. Then he guided us into a room in which were visitors who were there to congratulate him.

I first went around the flat. The kitchen smartly covered with white tiles, and the man-and-wife room, the sitting room and several other rooms were all neat arrangement, warmed up by the geothermal heating system. Yun said in an emotional voice that the state had given teachers and scientists such excellent flats gratis. Working as teacher in the Pyongyang University of Architecture for over 20 years after graduation from the Kim Hyong Jik University of Education Physics Faculty, he had made multimedia teaching materials in numbers, modernized teaching contents and invented a dozen experimental devices including a concrete strength-measuring instrument. He is a meritorious teacher who received thanks from Chairman Kim Jong Il for his development of a comprehensive tone quality-

measuring and estimating system and introduction of it in the North Hwanghae Provincial Art Theatre.

“It was really dreamlike. It was a reality, not a dream. I had never expected that I would receive a wonderful flat like this and cut the red ribbon on behalf of the teachers at the inauguration ceremony of the Mirae Scientists Street. I don’t know what to do to repay for the solicitude of the country that affords me, an ordinary teacher, all sorts of glory. I’ve only devoted all my energy to teaching work and the development of the country’s architecture. People often come to my home to congratulate me on my small success. I know I’m determined to make much more success,” he said.

His wife Choe Mi Ok said that she would do her best to help him achieve bigger success in his teaching work.

Jang Chol Min mentioned that he would work harder at his studies to become an able architect and help make a better land of the ever-changing country, like his teacher did.

Their words convinced me that the country would become more and more beautiful thanks to their efforts.

Sim Chol Yong



Palace Full of Love for Future



The entrance hall bearing a model of President Kim Il Sung's autographic statement.





IN THE DEMOCRATIC People's Republic of Korea, children are treasured as the most precious. They bring their talent into full bloom, provided with all necessary conditions.

In December last year the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, a comprehensive base of children's after-school education, was wonderfully renovated. Since its inauguration in May 1989, the palace has so far produced many talented children for different fields. The renovation of the palace provides schoolchildren with more access to extracurricular activities according to their hobbies and aptitudes. The palace building stands like the embrace of the Workers' Party of Korea, the cradle for the Korean children, in an imposing and graceful style, said Kim Song Hui, a teacher of the palace.

The group sculpture *A Chariot of Happiness* which stands in front of the palace, showing the happy life of the Korean schoolchildren, draws the attention of ▶

A scene from schoolchildren's New Year performance 2016.



The hall of the science building.





The astronomy room.



The art exhibition room.

- ▶ visitors. The sculpture gives a vivid description of a boy with a key of happiness in his hand in the guise of a grandfather in winter clothes and several other children running toward the palace, representing the Korean children who grow happily with nothing to envy in the world.

Seen in the entrance hall is

President Kim Il Sung's writing which reads: *Children are treasure of our country. Future Korea belongs our children. Kim Il Sung April 15, 1989.* This proposition helps people imagine the country's past, present and future.

The science building, in a distinctive style, has a large relief map of Korea and a model of blasting carrier rocket Unha-3. The visitors say that the interior is so nicely decorated as to make children know well the country's nature and geography and cherish a dream and desire to go ahead of the world. The art hall has been laid out to meet the children's sentiments so that they can take a rest and hold art

sessions. The small stage there is arranged so comfortably and usefully.

Rooms for computer, physics and other technical groups are distributed in the science building equipped with high-end facilities, which are conducive to studying the world of science. The art building was also rebuilt so that group members can build capacity according to their hobbies and aptitudes. In this building are those for embroidery, calligraphy, *kayagum*, accordion, female chorus, vocal and other art groups, and general practice halls of



The calisthenics room.



The computer room.



The gifted animal specimen hall.



The students' reading room.

▶ national musical instruments and electronic band. The ceiling of the accordion room is wonderfully decorated as if the song *We Are the Happiest in the World* were ringing out. The ceiling of the *kayagum* room is in the shape of ribs of a fan to reflect the sentiments of children who inherit the nation's tradition. All rooms of the building have sound absorption walls to help children hear the sound of their instruments correctly.

The palace has a dormitory for children from local areas. The four-storyed building has a medi-

cal treatment room on each floor. Each bedroom has a shower stall and soft bedclothes. The dining hall has a compartment for children who greet their birthdays.

All the visitors express admiration, saying that the palace is the one and only palace for children in the world, appropriate to the civilized socialist nation in its shape and content.

Ryom Yun Hak, president of the palace, said, "Our palace is a monumental edifice which other countries can never have or imitate. It demonstrates the advantage of our socialist system."

Under the benevolent care of the State for younger generations, children's laughter and singing reverberate on this land.

*There are palaces for babies
and children
So many palaces everywhere
in our country.
How good, how wonderful!
Children are treated
as kings,
Ours is the best country.*

Kim Yong Un



The *kayagum* room.



The Immortal Youth

DPRK LABOUR HERO AND People's Athlete Pak Yong Sun (August 22, 1956–July 14, 1987) was a twice world table tennis champion, winning 37 medals including 15 golds during her career. The *Korea Today* editorial board introduces her life in series.

Bronze Medal—Unworthy

The sky outside the plane was clean and bright. Pak Yong Sun, however, was dispirited on her way home from the 1st Asian Table Tennis Championships, where she had finished third again.

Her airliner was flying southward through the sky. As she looked out of the window with a guilty mind, the blue sky spread endlessly before her eyes, and the plane seemed to be at standstill. She was anxious to return home as soon as possible to do more training so as to win first place next time. Raising her body from the seat with eagerness she looked down under the plane. The white cauliflower clouds were hanging under it.

Suddenly, the plane began to nose down through the grey clouds, and Yong Sun soon saw the Amnok River. Her face brightened; she seemed to see her respected teachers, dear friends and beloved parents. Among them the image of instructor Ri Ja Chong came first. It immediately removed her depression. The generous and broadminded instructor seemed glad at her winning third

place in the international competition at the age of 15 as it was a great success unparalleled to that of winning third place at a domestic contest.

And this time a stern look of Kim Kuk Jin, chairman of the Children's Union of Pak's school, arose before her eyes. His thin face magnified, his eyes piercing her and scolding, "Another bronze medal? And that in the children's class? How dare you return home with such a face?" Kim used to say such words sulkily whenever she won third place at county or provincial games as well as at national contests.

I swear he would talk bluntly this time too, Pak thought. Thinking of Kuk Jin, she dropped her big, bright eyes unawares. *He's right. How could I take off in Pyongyang Airport bearing a bronze medal instead of a gold medal?*

Her coach Hwang Kon Dong who was sitting next found her in extreme anxiety and asked her in surprise, "Yong Sun, what's up? Are you airsick?"

Pak replied almost tearfully, "You know, Hwang, I'm ashamed to return with a bronze medal."

Wearing an absurd smile, Hwang said, "Well, I thought a serious matter had happened to you. You know the chairman of the Asian Table Tennis Union who is the president of the Japa-



nese Table Tennis Association spoke highly of you. He is sure you will emerge as Asian champion. Try hard, and you'll get it. You may rest assured."

"I couldn't keep my head up, though."

"Take it easy. Brace yourself up. The plane has now landed. Stand up, let's get off."

But Pak was reluctant to raise her body. Hwang got off the plane with her in the last turn, almost pulling her. Luckily, there were only a few people out to receive them. Hwang and Pak arrived at the sports team along with the vice director of the team in charge of technical affairs who had come to the airport to meet them.

When they entered the office of the director of the team, he, a tall man with the elongated face, said with emotion, blinking his eyes, "The great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il visited our table tennis training ground some time ago. Meeting the players and ►

► coaches he asked about the result of your match. Hearing you had won third place, the leader said that as you're recognized as a promising paddler, we should train you well to be an Asian and world champion. Then he looked around the table tennis training hall, earnestly saying that he would solve all problems arising in training. He asked us to train harder. Several days later he personally solved all the problems. If you go to the hall, you can see it with your own eyes. Go and see."

Hwang and Pak were filled with deep emotion. At once, they went to the hall. It was refurbished with new tables and other equipment and they could hardly find any old things.

That night Pak could not get to sleep for her thrilling heart. She thought over again how to become a best player. She set her teeth and made a determination to train harder counting every minute.

Pak actually overcame difficult moments of intense training. There came a new change in her technical development. She resolved to make the drive her powerful weapon and forte this time which she had honed under the guidance of Ri Ja Chong from her schooldays.

After filling the basket with 80 or 100 balls she drove back the balls to the last without stopping. When she was nearly finished, the balls didn't pass to the opposite side correctly, for her hand was shaking. Then, Hwang cried sharply, "They were powerless drives. You might be exposed to counterstrike that way. Cheer up

to the end of round five. You should keep the same posture to the last ball."

Hwang knew Pak lacked fortitude and perseverance. So he made sure that she had 30- or 100-m runs 10 to 20 times twice or thrice a week. He also made her run 8 kilometres and exercise dumbbell, rope jumping and horizontal bar while pushing ahead with the training of hard drive. With his slim build, sharp eyes, straight nose and frowning face he made exact demands on her without mercy.

Still a teenager, Pak, however, staunchly endured the training of hard drive like grown-up players. Hwang was afraid he was making a mistake driving her too hard regardless of her preparedness. Finally he decided the hard task might destruct her physically. One hundred balls were too much for her to bear, he thought, and called, "Stop now! So much for today. Have some free exercise."

"No, Hwang, I am still strong. Try 50 balls more," she suggested. Actually she did 150 balls.

"Satisfied?" Hwang asked, putting his bat on the table. Soaked with perspiration she mumbled, "Sorry, Hwang. You've had trouble for me."

"That's OK. I can do anything if it is helpful to your success."

"Well, if so could you do me a favour one more thing?"

"With pleasure."

"Please let me participate in the senior-class competitions next year."

"Unacceptable. It is impossible to jump over to the senior class, not junior. There are big gaps

between the skill levels, so I'm afraid you might lose your confidence and be depressed if you lose one game after another."

"I know, Hwang. But I won't give up."

As he well knew her matchless unyielding spirit and the spirit of exertion, Hwang was pleased at Pak's suggestion inwardly. He was convinced that if he put her in the senior group and gave more training there would be a greater success. So he supported her proposal.

"Well, I agree. Sports is irrelevant to the age and the length of career. If you want to go up to the senior group, you have to rank in the top three in the coming junior-class competition. Then I'll have a say in submitting your proposal to my senior officials, and the association may approve your opinion."

"I see," Pak said as confidently as ever.

In September that year she, the youngest player in the junior class, took third place at the national championships as she had promised. Immediately, Hwang submitted Pak's application for the senior class, and it was approved by the sports team and the association.

That night Yong Sun could hardly get to sleep with her satisfaction that she was able to participate in the senior class next time as she had wished. She was pleased because she had realized her goal and, more importantly, came to have chances to challenge Pak Yong Ok and O Yong Suk who had been her rivals in her school days.

(To be continued)

Pyongyang, Cradle of Korean Nation (5)

Champion of Orthodox Spirit of Korean Nation

THROUGH MANY AGES since the establishment of Ancient Joseon, which was the first state of the Korean nation, there existed other ancient states like Puyo, Kuryo and Jinglyuk in the extensive area in eastern Asia centring on the Korean peninsula. The fall of these states were followed by Koguryo, Paekje and Silla, which either separated from or succeeded to Ancient Joseon.

All the successive states after Ancient Joseon were of the same bloodline, worshipping Tangun as

their father and pursuing his cause invariably.

In 277 B.C. King Tongmyong established Koguryo, the first feudal state in the Korean history, and laid the foundation of a 1 000-year power by building up the national strength. Koguryo succeeded to Ancient Joseon.

Through centuries of struggle against formidable foreign aggression forces, it regained the control of the old area and inhabitants of Ancient Joseon, thus becoming the orthodox state that inherited the position and role of the ancestral state. The fact that Koguryo was the successor to Ancient Joseon is to be verified by

Tangun-ji or the *Book on Tangun*, the oldest record on Tangun that is quoted in the Koguryo chapter of *Samgukyusa* or *History of the Three Kingdoms*. The record says that people of Puyo and Koguryo claimed their founder king “Kojumong (King Tongmyong) is a descendent of Tangun’s,” recognizing Tangun as father of their nation.

After its establishment, Koguryo existed along with Ancient Joseon for a certain period of time. When Ancient Joseon fell in 108 B.C. Koguryo launched a strenuous struggle together with the remnant people of Ancient Joseon to regain the complete con- ►

The Mausoleum of King Tangun, father of the Korean nation.





People visit the birthplace of President Kim Il Sung, father of the socialist Korea, at Mangyongdae.

► trol of the territory and people of Ancient Joseon. As a result the whole area and all the people of Ancient Joseon were integrated in the realm of Koguryo.

Paekje, Silla and Kaya also succeeded to Ancient Joseon, taking over its economic and cultural formulas.

After the ruin of Koguryo, its territory and population were mostly included in Palhae which was founded in the late 7th century, representing the Korean nation as successor to Ancient Joseon and Koguryo.

Koryo was the successor state of Koguryo, or the heir to Tangun Korea. In the early 10th century Koryo, the first unified state in the Korean history, was established by integrating the southern area of Palhae's territory and a large number of remnant people of Palhae. This meant the first ever single sovereign state of the

Korean nation.

Wang Kon, founder King of Koryo, was descendent from the people of Koguryo. He declared his succession to Koguryo.

As mentioned above, all the states in the Korean history were descendents of Ancient Joseon established by Tangun. With Tangun confirmed to be the father of Ancient Joseon and Tangun Korea recognized as the first state in the Korean history, the orthodox spirit of the Korean nation, fathered by Ancient Joseon, went down to the Three Kingdoms including Koguryo, and then to Palhae and Koryo.

The formation and successive maintenance of the orthodox spirit were invariably centred on the Pyongyang area. Pyongyang, the historically sacred place of the Korean nation, is now exalting its honour as capital of Juche Korea. It is a historic place where

President Kim Il Sung, father of socialist Korea, was born. In this city is the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in which Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission, lie in state.

Pyongyang is the model city of the nation in political, economic, cultural and all other aspects. Major policies and measures of the Workers' Party of Korea and the state laws are discussed and decided in Pyongyang. The socialist culture and way of life and morality are also developed here and spread across the country. It often serves as venue of national and international functions.

Pyongyang, the holy place of the Korean revolution with time-honoured history, is a pride of the Korean nation.

(The end)

Mt. Chilbo (2)

Inner Chilbo

A COMPLEX OF UNIQUE beauties of peaks, valleys, seaside and seasonal changes, Mt. Chilbo is largely divided into Inner Chilbo, Outer Chilbo and Sea Chilbo by local features and sightseeing courses.

Inner Chilbo occupies part of

the tale that a filial boy succeeded in digging a wild insam (ginseng) in the Kumgang Valley after defeating nine dragons, and the Kuryong Pools.

Kumgang Peak, which is known as the most celebrated place in the mountain, is dark yellow in the lower half and purple red in the upper half, so it reminds you of a beacon. There is

12 m wide Kumgang Cave at the eastern foot of Kumgang Peak. At the entrance to the cave you can find the Kumgang Spring which is said to extend your life ten years at a drink but cut your life ten years at two drinks.

On Sungsondae (rock platform) where it is said that the scenery of Mt. Chilbo was so enticing that it was a regular haunt of fairies from the heaven, you have a bird's-eye view of a number of scenic spots, like Manwoldae and Muhuidae where the fairies are said to have come often to enjoy the moon while singing and dancing. Here you can also feast your eyes on Sangmae Peak which is the main peak of Mt. Chilbo, Jorong Peak which presents an unusual sight of rocks and cliffs of all shapes, Hwangso (ox) Rock looking like an ox pulling a heavily-loaded sledge, Nonggun (peasant) Rock which seems to be a peasant following the ox, Myonggyong (looking glass) Rock whose face is sleek like a mirror, and the site of Kumgang Temple.

On the top of Sangmae Peak ▶

Piryu Pool in early spring.



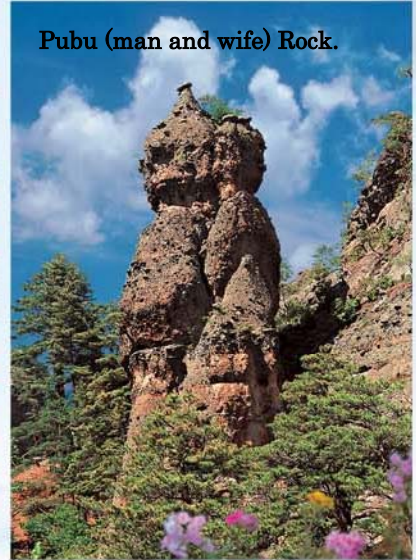
the district east of Pakdal Pass in the mountain. It is strewn with a lot of peaks and fantastic rocks, presenting a magnificent and wonderful mountain view. There are a good many places where to enjoy natural beauties, and the area is very convenient to go around. In the area there are many famous spots including the renowned Kumgang Peak, Kumgang Cave, Pubu Rock whose name comes from its resembling a man hugging his wife on return from war, Piano Rock which looks like a piano and stool, Kiwajip Rock looking like a tile-roofed house, Chogajip Rock like a straw-thatched cottage, Nongbu Rock which resembles a queue of three peasants climbing down the mountain with unusually big hats on, Kumgang Falls which carries



Nongbu (peasant) Rock.



Pubu (man and wife) Rock.



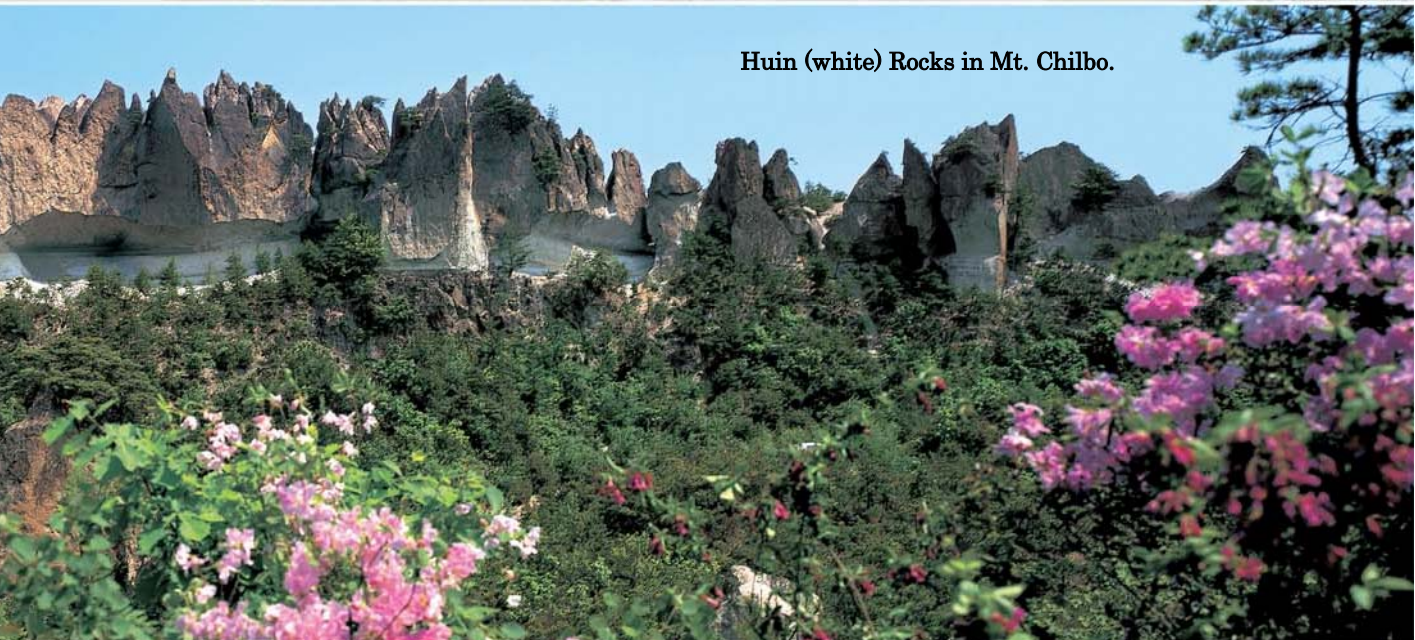
► that used to be called Mountain of Clouds as it is so high that it is always shrouded in clouds, you can have a kaleidoscopic range of views of magnificent peaks and cliffs and rocks in Inner Chilbo and Outer Chilbo as well as full views of valleys. At the western foot of Sangmae Peak there is a grave of a legendary military officer who is said to have taken his own life to be buried in the mountain after he saw the scenic beauty of Mt. Chilbo full of cliffs and rocks of all forms, and a grave of the horse he rode. Chains of peaks starting from Jorong Peak

whose name comes from its shape like a bird cage have a large number of rocks, such as Jangsu Rock looking like a warrior mowing down the enemy, Thugu (helmet) Rock, Koin (giant) Rock, Chaek (book) Rock, and Ryong (dragon) Rock. A particular sight is Pyongphung (folding screen) Rock which is shaped like a set of pictures of the natural wonders of Mt. Chilbo. Some other typical natural attractions are Kumsu Peak, widely known for its rocks shaped like birds and animals of all kinds, Panwol Peak resembling a half moon, Hogu Rock

looking like a tiger's mouth, Hwaebul Rock like a flaring torch, Kobuk (tortoise) Rock, Kidang Falls which takes form in the flooding season, and Piryu Pool. The local wonders also include Jonmang Peak which is good to enjoy the local sight, Jung Rock which is said to be a monk who turned to stone enraptured by the scenic beauty while praying to Amitabha, Kwangdae Rock looking like a peasant dancing with a sedge hat on, and Changgom (spear) Rock.

Pak Un Yong

Huin (white) Rocks in Mt. Chilbo.



New Palaeolithic Things Unearthed

RECENTLY A TEAM OF Researchers at the Kim Il Sung University History Faculty and the Academy of Social Sciences Archaeological Institute discovered earliest Palaeolithic relics in Tongam-dong, Sunchon City, South Phyongan Province. The relics were found in an old cave on the breast of a hillock rising some 40 metres above sea level.

The researchers from the human evolution research section and archaeological department of the Kim Il Sung University History Faculty and the anthropological section of the Academy of Social Sciences Archaeological Institute dug a cave in Tongam-dong to find 14 stone implements, eight bone tools, over 5 000 pieces of animal bone fossils, and over 1 000 spore and pollen fossils.

The site of historical interest consists of two cultural layers. The first layer revealed hand axes, choppers, hammers and 13 kinds of animal bone fossils, while the second layer produced hand axes, choppers, cutters, hammers and bone tools along with 12 kinds of animal bone fossils. The two layers also produced a lot of spore and pollen fossils.

Different dating methods say the first layer dates back approximately 880 000 years and the second one some 720 000 years.

In addition to the unearthing of the Komunmoru Remains, the recent findings in the Tongam-dong site bear another scientific proof of the fact that the Korean

ancestors lived in the Korean land age after age from the earlier period of the Palaeolithic era and that Korea is one of the cradles of human culture.

The hand axes found in the two layers proved to belong to the earliest ever kind in Asia, thus putting an end to the old argument that the hand ax culture existed in Europe and West Asia alone and standing substantial witness to the existence of the hand ax culture in Korea and other east Asian regions.

A tooth fossil of *trogontherium cuvier* was discovered in the first layer of the cave, which is the first of its kind in Korea. Earlier this kind of fossil was seen in some sites in the Eurasian continent.

The bone tools which were

uncovered in the second layer belong to the kind rare to be seen in the earlier Palaeolithic era around the world. These items are of importance in understanding the production activities of the Korean ancestors.

The results of analysis of the animal bone, spore and pollen fossils from the two layers are eloquent proof that the local area was rife with forests thanks to the hot and humid climate which is proper to tropical or subtropical regions that are usually covered with grass and trees.

The findings from the Tongam-dong site are greatly helpful to the deeper study of the Palaeolithic culture in Korea and the rest of Asia.

Kim Un Chol



Stone implements dug from the first and second cultural layers.

Typical fossilized animal bones.



The US Should Make Demarche

NOWADAYS THE MATTER of peace in the Korean peninsula is drawing the focus of attention of the world. It is more than 60 years since the armistice agreement was concluded, but peace has not yet settled in the Korean peninsula. The relation of contradiction and confrontation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States is becoming more aggravated as days go by, and the unstable situation of neither war nor peace is continuing in the Korean peninsula.

In the peninsula where the north and the south are aiming their guns at each other across the military demarcation line, the US and south Korea conduct military exercises of all names uninterruptedly.

The Korean peninsula is situated in Northeast Asia where great powers are involved in extremely complicated geopolitical interests. In terms of both military stationing and enormous economic potentials, Northeast Asia is most likely to be a place of a new world war. The Korean peninsula is just situated in the centre of it. Experts are worried that if an acute situation continues in the peninsula, a war may break out at any moment, and that it may immediately expand to a global nuclear war. A fundamental way to stop this is to abolish the old armistice agreement between the DPRK and the US and establish a durable peace mechanism in the peninsula by

concluding a peace treaty instead.

To change the Korean armistice agreement into a peace agreement is the key to solution of all pending problems at present and the only formula to ensure durable peace and stability in the peninsula. The DPRK officially stated on many occasions, mostly recently at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, its proposal to change the Korean armistice agreement into a peace one. And it has urged the US to positively respond to the proposal. The overtures of the DPRK proceed from the fact that the US, as one of the main signatories of the Korean Armistice Agreement, is the de facto ruler of south Korea and that the US occupation forces in south Korea have the command control of the south Korean army.

Despite the DPRK's recent reiteration of its stand for a peace agreement, the US dispatched the nuclear-powered carrier *Ronald Reagan* along with other cruisers and Aegis destroyers to the sea off Pusan to conduct a large-scale joint exercise with the south Korean navy.

The reason why the US is doggedly refusing to conclude a peace agreement and aggravating the situation in the Korean peninsula lies in its ambition for supremacy in the region. The US's overt hostile policy against the DPRK, the waging of consecutive large-scale joint military drills and shipment of means of nuclear strike into south Korea are

doubtlessly the cause of a vicious cycle of confrontation and aggravation of tension in the Korean peninsula, and, taking the advantage of it, an arms race and tension are getting from bad to worse in the Asia-Pacific region.

An expert of a Russian college of international studies disclosed as follows: "All the moves against Pyongyang are coming from none other than the US's scheme to expand its military strength and establish an MD system in the Asia-Pacific region on the pretext of north Korea's nuclear threat. The root cause of the problem is not Pyongyang, but the US's ambition over Beijing and Moscow."

In a nutshell, the US's argument for talks on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is just an empty talk as it was in the past, and it proves that conclusion of a peace agreement between the DPRK and the US is the only way to solve the issue of the Korean peninsula.

Dialogue between the long-standing belligerents should no longer be done for form's sake for "maintaining stability of situation," but be practical negotiation focusing on removal of the hostile relations between the two countries. If the US takes a daring step towards political switchover, the security environment of the Korean peninsula will meet a radical improvement, and the US's concerns about security will surely be dissolved.

Kim Un Ryong

Brazen Stance

NOW JAPAN'S ATTEMPT to grab Tok Islets is going to extremes. Setting it its main political task to grab the islets the conservative authorities of Japan are spinning out such sophism that "Tok Islets are inherent territory of Japan" and that "[Japan's] claim for dominium over Tok Islets" is unchangeable.

Earlier in 2005 Japan instituted the "Day of Takeshima (Tok Islets)," and, on February 22 every year it highlights the "validity of its dominium over Tok Islets." Last year a farce was held in Shimane Prefecture, Japan to mark the "Day of Takeshima," which was overtly attended by a vice minister-level official of the Japanese government. After the ceremony Japan distributed a video asserting its unilateral claim for "dominium" over Tok Islets in 11 languages. The public opinion commented that it was dovetailed on the basis of a report on Tok Islets drawn up by historical and territorial experts. The reports contained ten items of which the first one "advises" the Japanese authorities to concentrate on the propaganda of insisting on Japan's dominium over the islets to the peoples and experts in third countries.

It is a brigandish and brazen behaviour from A to Z. The fact that the islets belonged to Korea from ages ago has been proved to the full historically and legally. Some typical pieces of evidence are *Samguksagi* (Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms), *Koryosagi*

(History of Koryo Dynasty) and *Chronicles of Feudal Joson Dynasty*.

In addition to many Korean documents and historical materials there are Japan's historical records to the effect.

In January 1696 the Edo government of Japan acknowledged that Ullung Island and Tok Islets are the land of Korea and ordered its people to give up their access to the waters of Ullung Island. On March 20, 1877 Iwakura Tomomi, official of Dajokan (the Cabinet), the highest organ of the Japanese authorities, gave an instruction to the ministry of internal affairs to have an acknowledgement that Ullung Island and Tok Islets are "unrelated to Japan." Such facts prove that Japan historically recognized that Tok Islets were under the dominium of Korea. A copy of a military operations map made by an order of Toyotomi Hideyoshi during Japan's invasion of Korea in 1592, and the original of the map of the eight provinces of Korea made by the famous Japanese geographer Hayashi Shihei in 1785 show that Tok Islets are a part of the Korean territory.

Despite of the truth the Japanese ultra-right conservatives claim "dominium over Tok Islets." Their sinister intention is to implant the wrong idea in the rising generation to use them as a shock brigade in grabbing the islets.

Education is a fundamental issue decisive of the fortune of a country. As the children shape their world outlook in their

secondary and high school days, the future of a certain country depends on what kind of education is given to them in those days. That is why Japan is openly trying to execute its policy of dominium over the islets in the overall field of education. Arguing that "it is necessary to give deep understanding to the students through textbook" the education committee of Tokyo-to (metropolis) gave "detailed description" of why Tok Islets are the "original territory of Japan" in history textbooks for the metropolitan high schools. The Yokohama authorities overtly marked Tok Islets as "Japan's territory" in the secondary school textbooks. With the government's approval the number of textbooks claiming the islets as "land of Japan" is on the increase every year, and there are dozens of such textbooks now.

When the rightist and militarist tendencies are gaining force the open commitment to instilling the craving for Tok Islets in the rising generation is now getting more pronounced in the Japanese political circles. This vividly shows how persistently Japan's ultra-right forces are pursuing their ambition for overseas aggression.

Japan's frenzy for seizing Tok Islets is just a suicidal act hastening its own destruction. It is strongly advised to understand that the islets are the sacred territory of Korea which no one is allowed to violate or covet.

Choe Kwang Guk

Puyong Pavilion

AT PUYONG-DONG, HAEJU City, South Hwanghae Province, is a beautiful pavilion called Puyong (lotus). Resting on square columns in a quadrangular lotus pond, the pavilion used to be a pleasure resort of feudal bureaucrats in the past. When the walled city of Haeju was built in the late Koryo dynasty (918–1392), the pond was dug for storing water for use in time of emergency. At first, there stood a pavilion at the foot of a hillock on the north of the pond. As it looked like a louts, it was called after the flower. In 1526 a new pavilion supported by stone columns was built in the middle of

the pond, which was linked with the one on the shore of the pond with a bridge.

It used to be a pastoral enjoyment to listen to the rhythm of the falling rain in the Puyong Pavilion from where the beautiful image of the two linked pavilions on the hillock and the pond can be seen on the water.

The beauty spot was destroyed in an indiscriminate bombing by the US imperialists in the Korean war (June 25, 1950–July 27, 1953). Later it was restored to its original state, and it is now a favourite public recreation ground.

Puyong Pavilion has a legend: Lots of frogs usually croaked all

night in the pond. It sounded so noisy that the local feudal bureaucrats could hardly go to sleep. They forcibly made the commoners throw the stones in the pond all night to stop the croaking. It was a great burden and suffering for the people who worked hard all day long. At that time a passer-by, on hearing the story, wrote a note and threw it to the crying frogs. It read, “I understand you are dull, but how could you disturb the sweet sleep of the people who are already exhausted from farming jobs? Stop croaking!” Since that night the frogs never croaked any more.

Pak Yong Il



